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FBI Keeps Silent On Agent's Case

By JAMES EWELL

The Federal Bureau of Investigation maintained official silence Tuesday on the report that Dallas-based agent James P. Hosty Jr., who investigated Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy had been suspended for 30 days and reassigned to the Kansas City office.

Hosty's supervisor here, agent-in-charge Gordon Shanklin, declared flatly:

"I'll make no comment on it at all."

An FBI spokesman in Washington withheld comment, saying that the office never discusses personnel.

The report said that Hosty, whose wife is expecting their ninth child, would not draw pay during the suspension.

The report added that the action was the direct result of the Warren Commission's criticism of the FBI in its report on the assassination.

Hosty specialized in security intelligence for the Dallas office, and had routinely checked on Oswald and Oswald's Russian wife, Marina.

The Warren Commission report said Hosty never talked with Oswald, but had sought information about him through other sources, including Mrs. Ruth Paine, who shared her home in Irving with Marian Oswald.

The agent's name was drawn into the FBI-Dallas police squabble after Police Chief Jesse E. Curry disclosed on the day after the assassination that the FBI knew, but had not informed police, that Oswald was working in Dallas in a building on the Presidential parade route. Curry based the charge on a memo from Detective Lt. Jack Revill which was sent to his office only hours after assassination. The memo quoted Hosty as telling Revill that the FBI knew Oswald was "capable" of killing the president.

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover denied that the agent ever made the statement to the Dallas police lieutenant.

Curry and Revill, the department's criminal intelligence chief, both testified in Washington before the commission about the memo.

Neither would comment Tuesday on the Hosty suspension.

Sources, meanwhile, described morale as "shot" among Dallas FBI agents as a result of the action against Hosty. The sources said some of the other agents feel Hosty was being made a "fall guy," a feeling also shared by those in other branches of law enforcement here.

One police official defended Hosty's work in the FBI. He described him as "one of the better agents in the area, conscientious, worked hard and was well informed."

The official said it was obvious that Hosty was made a "scapegoat for doing exactly what he was told to do."

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